



BRITAIN HIGHEST!

SUBJECT to official homologation by the F.A.I., the world's altitude record now stands to the credit of Great Britain with a height of 15,230 m. (49,967 ft.).

This magnificent performance was carried out last Monday by Squadron Leader F. R. D. Swain, of the Royal Air Force, on a Bristol monoplane fitted with a Bristol Pegasus of special type. The preparations for the record flight have been going on for some little time, but not until now has it been possible to refer to the fact.

The existing record of 48,674 ft., standing to the credit of the French pilot, Detré, flying a Potez, is thus broken by 1,293 ft. Sqn. Ldr. Swain took off from Farnborough at 7.30 a.m., and landed at Netheravon, Wilts., at 10.50 a.m.

Sqn. Ldr. Swain, who is a Portsmouth man, was seconded to the R.A.F. from the Army in 1922. He graduated as a pilot at No. 5 F.T.S., Sealand, and then attended a course of armament instruction at Eastchurch, afterwards being posted to No. 2 (Army Co-operation) Squadron at Andover for flying duties.

After passing a flying instructor's course at the C.F.S., Upavon, he served with different squadrons at home and overseas, and in the autumn of 1933 he joined the Experimental Section of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough as experimental test pilot.

The preparations for the record altitude flight, and the general research programme connected with it, were undertaken under the immediate direction of Mr. H. E. Wimperis, Director of Scientific Research at the Air Ministry. The aeroplane and engine were designed and built by the

*Special Bristol
Monoplane
Piloted by Sqn.*

*Ldr. F. R. D. Swain Recaptures
World's Altitude Record by Ascent
of 49,967 ft.*



Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., at the request of the Air Ministry, and in this connection it is of interest to recall that in 1932 Capt. Cyril Uwins, Bristol's chief test pilot, established a world's altitude record by flying to 13,404 m. (43,977 ft.) in a Vickers Vespa biplane specially converted by the Bristol Company. This machine was fitted with a supercharged Bristol Pegasus engine. There is thus a degree of poetic justice in the fact that the recent record breaker should also be of Bristol design and manufacture. Mr. Roy Fedden, chief of the Bristol engine department, and Capt. F. S. Barnwell, Bristol's chief aircraft designer, share with their respective staffs the honour of having produced the combination which has just entered the name of Great Britain once more on the list of world's records.

Known as the Bristol 138, the record-breaking machine is a low-wing cantilever monoplane which, except for its size, reminds one very much of the little Bristol Brownie which

HIGH-SCHOOL LESSON—I



"Now watch!"



"A little French chalk to get one's hand in."



"Now for the hat—most important."